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RECOGNITION OF MADELINE MELLINGER

2022 WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

CLOSING REMARKS

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE

is an award designated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Since 1985, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida State Fair Authority have recognized the significant contributions of women in the agriculture industry with the "Woman of the Year in Agriculture" award. I am proud to honor Mrs. Madeline Mellinger with this distinguished award in recognition of her outstanding work to advance Florida agriculture.

Mellinger has dedicated 50 years to Florida's agriculture industry as a business owner, scientist, and mentor to the development of our next generation of growers and our agricultural industry as a whole.

In 1972, Mellinger founded Glades Crop Care Inc., an independent agricultural consulting and contract research firm based in South Florida. Her company provides integrated pest management (IPM) and crop counseling services to more than 65,000 acres of plants and more than 60 varieties of fresh vegetable crops, citrus, rice, and sugarcane.

Mellinger's work has changed the way farmers in Florida approach pest control. Her innovative work with IPMs showed producers they could effectively shift the pesticide application from a calendar-based schedule to a need-based regimen, which saved farmers time and money and reduced its impact on the environment.

Throughout the years Mellinger has dedicated time to serving on several UF/IFAS-related advisory boards. She and her husband, Dr. Charles Mellinger, were instrumental in the establishment of the University of Florida's Doctor of Plant Medicine Program. Mellinger has been repeatedly recognized for her service, including being named a Friend of UF/IFAS in 2014 and was one of Florida Trend's Living Legends for 2018-2020.

She is known among her peers for her work as a mentor to women seeking to become leaders in the agricultural industry. She also established the Foundation of Environmental Agriculture Education, which funds scholarships for students who major in crop production or related fields.

Madeline Mellinger joins 38 other women who have earned the respect and admiration of their peers by making outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture. Therefore, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Mrs. Madeline Mellinger on being named the 2022 "Woman of the Year in Agriculture."

Sincerely.

Wilton Simpson
Commissioner of Agriculture







Fresh out of college, Madeline began working at J and W Agro-eco Labs as a junior entomologist. There, she played a role in the detection of blights that could devastate Florida's sweet corn and celery industries in the Everglades.

Despite its success, the company went bankrupt only six months after Madeline joined the team.
Recognizing her efforts, several Belle Glade growers asked Madeline to continue providing her services. In 1972, Glades Crop Care (GCC) was founded.





Florida's first privately owned crop scouting and consulting firm, GCC has grown into one of the nation's largest firms of its kind. Today, the company has three primary consulting services: advanced crop scouting, food safety programs, and research on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) alternatives.



Madeline walks with Mike Joyner (right) of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. Since its inception, Madeline's company has provided IPM services and crop consulting services to more than 65,000 acres of plants and over 60 varieties of fresh vegetable crops, citrus, rice and sugar cane.



GCC began planting a series of breeding trials to provide pesticide recommendations to growers.

Beginning in 1975 with sweet corn, snap beans and sugar cane, the company expanded its catalog to include lettuce, peppers and tomatoes.



Based on her research, Madeline recommended moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach to pesticide application and began stressing the Four Rs: the right pesticide at the right rate at the right time in the right place. By modifying their applications, Florida farmers reduced their impact on the environment while saving millions of dollars in production costs.



Madeline and Jack Green (right), her coach and mentor of thirty years. Jack, the owner and CEO of The Arrow House Group, Inc., advised Madeline with personal and staff development as well as business decisions.

From its simple beginnings 50 years ago, Madeline has grown this woman-owned business into a nationally recognized operation employing 35 people. Below, Madeline confers with Sandy McCarthy, an employee of 30 years and former scout.





Madeline and her husband, Dr. Charles Mellinger (right) are considered the "godparents" of UF|IFAS's Plant Medicine Program, a track that has produced a generation of graduates who are positively impacting Florida agriculture.

PREYLOUS WILLERS Woman of the Year in Agriculture

1985

Jo Ann Smith

1986

Ruth Wedgworth

1987

Dorothy Conner Shipes

1988

Carolyn Reed Kempfer

1989

Belle Jeffords

1990

Jeanette Barthle

1991

Ruth M. Tucker

1992

Carol C. Murphy

1993

Sarah W. Bailey

1994

Anne Wardlaw Dickinson

1995

Louve "Vee" Frierson Platt and Patricia Robbins

1996

Norma Stokes

1997

Gertrude "Trudy" Carey

1998

Nancy Gurnett Hardy

1999

Vina Jean Banks

2000

Helen Houck

2001

Barbara Carlton

2002

Annette Barnett

2003

Jennie Lee Zipperer

2004

Martina "Teena" Borek

2005

Marlene Strickland

2006

Iris Pollock Wall

2007

Colleen H. Boggs

2008

Patsy Nathe

2009

Marcia Lightsey

2010

Ann Holt

2011

Sarah K. Childs

2012

Imogene Yarborough

2013

Lynetta Usher Griner

2014

Belinda Chason

2015

Lisa Hinton

2016

Judi Whitson

2017

Dr. Martha Roberts

2018

Dr. Ann Blount

2019

Dr. Jennifer Taylor

2020

Veronique Sallin

2021

Angela TenBroeck



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